

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) In a modem device for bi-directionally communicating with a remote site head-end disposed in a location remote from the modem device, a method for providing warning of impaired communication, comprising the steps of:
 - retrieving a communication parameter value from memory;
 - comparing said retrieved communication parameter value with a predetermined threshold to identify an excessive communication parameter value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and
 - initiating substantially periodic transmission of a message from said modem device to said remote site head-end indicating a non-modem-device-based system adjustment is necessary, in response to said comparison.
2. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said message includes said retrieved communication parameter value.
3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said retrieved communication parameter value represents an actual transmission upstream power level for communicating from said modem device to said remote site head-end.
4. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein said modem device is a cable modem and said transmission uses simple network management protocol(SNMP), and including the step of comparing said retrieved communication parameter value with minimum and maximum predetermined threshold values.

5. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, including the step of

receiving said predetermined threshold value from said remote site head-end.

6. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, including the step of

using a default predetermined threshold value prior to said receiving of said predetermined threshold value from said remote site head-end.

7. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, including the step of

configuring said modem device with said received predetermined threshold during an initialization operation.

8. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said step of initiating substantially periodic transmission of said message comprises initiating transmission on one of, (a) a schedule, and (b) a repetition frequency, received from said remote site head-end.

9. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, including the step of

using default schedule or repetition frequency values prior to receiving said schedule or repetition frequency values from said remote site head-end.

10. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, including the step of

terminating transmission of said message upon said comparison step indicating said retrieved communication parameter value no longer exceeds said predetermined threshold.

11. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, including the step of

displaying at least one of, (a) said retrieved communication parameter value, (b) said predetermined threshold and (c) repetition frequency of said periodic transmission, in response to a user command.

12. (previously presented) A method according to claim 11, including the step of

generating a web page for said displaying of said at least one of, (a) said retrieved communication parameter value, (b) said predetermined threshold and (c) repetition frequency of said periodic transmission.

13. (currently amended) In a modem device for bi-directionally communicating with a remote ~~site~~ head-end disposed in a location remote from the modem device, a method for providing warning of impaired communication, comprising the steps of:

retrieving a communication parameter value from memory;

comparing said retrieved communication parameter value with a predetermined threshold to identify an excessive communication parameter value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and

initiating substantially periodic transmission of a message including said retrieved communication parameter value from said modem device to said remote ~~site~~ head-end indicating a non-modem-device-based system adjustment is necessary, in response to said comparison.

14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13, including the step of

receiving said predetermined threshold value from said remote ~~site~~ head-end.

15. (currently amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein said retrieved communication parameter value represents an actual transmission upstream power level for communicating from said modem device to said remote site head-end.

16. (currently amended) In a modem device for bi-directionally communicating with a remote site head-end disposed in a location remote from the modem device, a method for providing warning of impaired communication, comprising the steps of:

- retrieving a transmission power level value from memory;
- comparing said retrieved transmission power level value with a predetermined threshold to identify an excessive transmission power level value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and
- initiating substantially periodic transmission of a message including said retrieved transmission power level value from said modem device to said remote site head-end indicating a non-modem-device-based system adjustment is necessary, in response to said comparison.

17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 16, including the step of

- terminating transmission of said message upon said comparison step indicating said retrieved transmission power level value no longer exceeds said predetermined threshold.

18. (currently amended) A modem device for providing warning of impaired communication in a system in which said modem device is bi-directionally communicating with a remote site head-end disposed in a location remote from the modem device, said modem device comprising:

- means for retrieving a communication parameter value from memory;
- means for comparing said retrieved communication parameter value with a predetermined threshold to identify an excessive communication parameter value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and

means for initiating substantially periodic transmission of a message from the modem device to said remote site head-end indicating a non-modem-device-based system adjustment is necessary, in response to said comparison.

19. (previously presented) The device of claim 18, wherein said message includes said retrieved communication parameter value.

20. (currently amended) The device of claim 18, wherein said retrieved communication parameter value represents an actual transmission upstream power level for communicating from said modem device to said remote site head-end.

21. (previously presented) The device of claim 18 in which said modem device is a cable modem and said transmission uses simple network management protocol (SNMP), said modem device further comprising:
means for comparing said retrieved communication parameter value with minimum and maximum predetermined threshold values.

22. (currently amended) The device of claim 18, further comprising:
means for receiving said predetermined threshold value from said remote site head-end.

23. (currently amended) The device of claim 22 further comprising:
means for using a default predetermined threshold value prior to said receiving of said predetermined threshold value from said remote site head-end.

24. (previously presented) The device of claim 22, further comprising:
means for configuring said modem device with said received predetermined threshold during an initialization operation.

25. (currently amended) The device of claim 18, wherein said means for initiating substantially periodic transmission of said message further comprises:

means for initiating transmission on one of, (a) a schedule, and (b) a repetition frequency, received from said remote site head-end.

26. (currently amended) The device of claim 18 further comprising:
means for utilizing default schedule or repetition frequency values prior to receiving said schedule or repetition frequency values from said remote site head-end.

27. (previously presented) The device of claim 18, further comprising:
means for terminating transmission of said message if said means for comparison indicates that said retrieved communication parameter value no longer exceeds said predetermined threshold.

28. (previously presented) The device of claim 18, further comprising:
means for displaying at least one of, (a) said retrieved communication parameter value, (b) said predetermined threshold and (c) repetition frequency of said periodic transmission, in response to a user command.

29. (previously presented) The device of claim 28, further comprising:
means for generating a web page for said displaying of said at least one of, (a) said retrieved communication parameter value, (b) said predetermined threshold and (c) repetition frequency of said periodic transmission.

30. (currently amended) A modem comprising:
means for retrieving a transmission power level value from memory;
means for comparing said retrieved transmission power level value with a predetermined threshold to identify a transmission power level value indicative of a potential communication link impairment; and

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means for launching a message, said message indicating that a non-modem-based system adjustment is necessary, from the modem to a remote ~~site~~ head-end disposed in a location remote from the modem should said retrieved transmission power level value be at a value indicative of a potential communication link impairment.